

REMARKS

This Amendment responds to the Office Action mailed September 14, 2010, in the above-identified application. Based on the foregoing amendments and the following comments, allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-20 were previously pending in the application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 16 and 18 have been amended, and claim 20 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, claims 1-19 are currently pending, with claims 1, 16 and 18 being independent claims. The amendments find clear support in the original application at least at page 1, first paragraph; page 3, last paragraph; page 8, first full paragraph; and page 10, first full paragraph. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner's courtesy in conducting a telephone interview on January 12, 2011 is acknowledged with appreciation. Examiner Vinh Lam, SPE Amare Mengistu and Applicant's undersigned attorney participated in the interview. Applicant's attorney briefly explained the claimed invention and discussed the cited prior art. A proposed amendment was discussed. The Examiners suggested that the proposed amendment be modified to more closely reflect the description on page 10, first full paragraph of the specification, in order to overcome the cited prior art. Applicant's attorney indicated that the proposed amendment would be discussed with the Applicant.

The Examiner has rejected claims 16, 18 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Zerhusen et al. (US 2003/0052787). Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Willmore (US 2003/0179156) in view of Zerhusen et al. and Honkonen et al. (US 6,681,764). Claims 17 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Zerhusen et al. in view of Honkonen et al. The rejections are respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

Willmore discloses an interactive multi-user display arrangement for displaying goods, services and information to the public (paragraph 0002). The arrangement is described as a "video wall" that includes a two-dimensional array of monitors and terminals for displaying information and for allowing user interaction to occur in a commercial environment. Willmore

further discloses an arrangement of individual personal computers for use as information input and output devices. The personal computers are shown as interactive screens and input devices (i.e., keyboards and touch screens) that are arranged as a row below a matrix of a display region (FIGS. 1 and 5, and paragraph 0043).

Honkonen discloses a control system for a home ambulatory liquid oxygen system having an oxygen concentrator, a condenser, a cryocooler, a heater and a storage dewar (Abstract). The control block diagram of FIG. 6 shows a mode switch and an indicator connected to a controller. Honkonen states that the liquid level in the dewar is continuously displayed by the indicator (col. 6, lines 33-34 and col. 10, lines 29-34 and 48-51).

Zerhusen discloses a point-of-care computer system including a display positioned in a point-of-care location, a computer coupled to the display, and an network coupled to the computer to enable the computer to access information stored in a remote location (Abstract). Zerhusen describes functions such as dispensing medication to a patient (FIGS. 3A and 3B) and control of a patient's bed (FIGS. 44 and 45). Embodiments utilizing a dual display are shown, for example, in FIGS. 68-74.

Claim 1 will be discussed first. Amended claim 1 is directed to a display and control device for a life support system and recites, in part, a configuration device which is connected with the electric bus and which, after connection of a display/control unit to the electric bus, transmits to the display/control unit configuration data determining display contents and input areas of the display/control unit to be utilized during subsequent operation with the life support system, wherein, after configuration of the display/control unit has been completed, failure of the configuration device during operation does not initially cause a deterioration in an overall function of the display and control device.

Applicant respectfully submits that Willmore cannot reasonably be interpreted as a display and control device for a life support system, as claimed, wherein Willmore describes a display arrangement for public use and display for entertainment purposes, such as in a kiosk (paragraph 0026). Further, while Willmore describes a supporting rack structure, Willmore contains no disclosure of a base unit having a plurality of connector devices, which facilitate

replacement and/or moving of the display/control units. More importantly, Willmore fails to disclose a configuration device which transmits to the display/control unit configuration data determining display contents and input areas of the display/control unit to be utilized during subsequent operation with the life support system, *wherein, after configuration of the display/control unit has been completed, failure of the configuration device during operation does not initially cause a deterioration in an overall function of the display and control device*, as required by amended claim 1. A computer which transmits data to a display device for generating a display, as described by Willmore, is very different from a configuration device which configures a display/control unit for subsequent operation with a life support system, as claimed.

Honkonen does not provide the teachings that are lacking in Willmore. In particular, Honkonen contains no teaching of a display/control unit as claimed and does not disclose or even remotely suggest a configuration device that transmits configuration data to a display/control unit for configuring the display/control unit, as claimed.

In addition, Applicants submit that the combination of Willmore and Honkonen is improper and should be withdrawn. The video wall of Willmore, holding a matrix of video display monitors and terminals for public display and entertainment, has no relation to and would provide no benefit to the user of the home ambulatory liquid oxygen system of Honkonen. The skilled person would have no motivation to connect the video wall of Willmore to the home ambulatory liquid oxygen system of Honkonen. Applicants further submit that there would be no reasonable expectation of success in combining the video wall of Willmore and the home ambulatory liquid oxygen system of Honkonen. For at least these reasons, the combination of Willmore and Honkonen is improper and should be withdrawn.

Zerhusen does not provide the teachings that are lacking in Willmore and Honkonen. In particular, Zerhusen does not disclose or suggest a configuration device that transmits configuration data to the display/control unit to be utilized during subsequent operation with the life support system, *wherein, after configuration of the display/control unit has been completed*,

failure of the configuration device during operation does not initially cause a deterioration in an overall function of the display and control device, as claimed.

In summary, Willmore, Honkonen and Zerhusen, taken individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest a display and control device for a life support system including a configuration device as claimed. For at least these reasons, amended claim 1 is clearly and patentably distinguished over Willmore in view of Honkonen and Zerhusen. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-15 depend from claim 1 and are patentable over the cited references for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Claim 16 is directed to a display and control apparatus for a life support system comprising, in part, a configuration device connected to the communication bus and which transmits configuration data to a display/control unit after connection of the display/control unit to the communication bus, wherein the configuration data establishes display contents and input areas of the display/control unit to be utilized during subsequent operation with the life support system and *wherein, after configuration of the display/control unit has been completed, failure of the configuration device during operation does not initially cause a deterioration in an overall function of the display and control device.*

As should be apparent from the above discussion, Zerhusen does not disclose or suggest a configuration device as defined by amended claim 16. For at least these reasons and the reasons discussed above, amended claim 16 is clearly and patentably distinguished over Zerhusen, and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 17 depends from claim 16 and is patentable over the cited references for at least the same reasons as claim 16.

Claim 18 is directed to a medical system comprising a life support system and a display and control apparatus. The display and control apparatus comprises, in part, a configuration device which transmits configuration data to a display/control unit after installation of the display/control unit in the base unit, wherein the configuration data establishes display contents and input areas of the display/control unit to be utilized during subsequent operation with the life

support system and *wherein, after configuration of the display/control unit has been completed, failure of the configuration device during operation does not initially cause a deterioration in an overall function of the display and control device.*

As should be apparent from the above discussion, Zerhusen does not disclose or suggest a configuration device as defined by amended claim 18. For at least these reasons and the reasons discussed above, amended claim 18 is clearly and patentably distinguished over Zerhusen, and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 19 depends from claim 18 and is patentable over the cited references for at least the same reasons as claim 18.

Based upon the above discussion, claims 1-19 are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below if this communication does not place the case in condition for allowance.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, the Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith to our Deposit Account No. 23/2825, under Docket No. H0075.70110US00.

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Respectfully submitted,

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